



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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### Steps to Becoming a Home Inspector

- Step 1:** If you are setting up your own business, you will need a business license from the Department of Licensing. To learn more, you can contact DOL at (360) 664-1400 or view information on the Internet at <http://www.dol.wa.gov/businesses.htm>.
- Step 2:** Determine whether or not you need a Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Structural Pest Inspector (SPI) license by reading the *Structural Pest Inspector Requirements* fact sheet. It is available by calling 877.301.4555 or on-line at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/docs/058SpiReqFactSheet.pdf>.
- Step 3:** If you **DO** need to be licensed as a SPI, the most difficult, time-consuming and expensive step involves securing the required financial coverage. The *SPI Requirements* fact sheet details the four coverage options. Additional information, including the forms your agent must submit to WSDA, is at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/CaSpiInfo.htm#agent>. WSDA recommends that you research your ability to obtain this coverage prior to making a final decision about performing structural pest inspections.
- Note: It is very difficult to be a home inspector without conducting structural pest inspections. The very act of acknowledging conditions conducive to the development of a wood destroying organism requires the license. Again, refer to the *SPI Requirements* fact sheet to learn more about actions that require a license.
- Step 4:** Obtain the study materials necessary to pass the Structural Pest Inspector exam. These are detailed in the *Guidance Document for Structural Pest Inspectors Testing Requirements for New Licensees* available from Pesticide Licensing at 877.301.4555 or on-line at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/StudyInfo.pdf>.
- Step 5:** Thoroughly study all the recommended study material. If at all possible, spend time in the field with an experienced inspector. This will help with the practical portion of the SPI exam. The exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions, 25% of which require the tester to identify samples of wood destroying organisms and their damage.
- Step 6:** As soon as you know when you will be ready to test, make a reservation for a test session by calling Pesticide Licensing at 877.301.4555. The *Pesticide Licensing Fact Sheet* at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/Form4375.pdf> provides more information. Pass the exam with a score of 70% or higher.
- Step 7:** **If you are the company owner:**
- ⇒ make sure that your agent submits the required proof of financial coverage. This must be on the correct WSDA form!
  - ⇒ submit a SPI Company License Application available at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/4175-SPICompanyLicenseApp.pdf>.
- If you are an employee of a SPI Company:**
- ⇒ make sure your employer adds you as an employee under their license. They can use the company license application form identified above.